

THAT RUMP CONVENTION!

Something About the "Repeaters from New Hamburg," the "Two Delegates from Kelso," and Other Things.

Last week I did not say all that I wanted to say about the victory of the people of Scott county over ring rule. This was because the convention was held on Thursday, and that is the day on which the Kicker is usually printed. What I did say was fact—and no other paper in the county can claim as much.

The local organ printed the resolutions of the little rump convention representing two of the eight townships, but did not print the resolutions of the regular convention. These rumpers speak of "repeaters from New Hamburg" and of "two delegates from Kelso" and say that "one of these delegates is a Republican."

Now for a little fun. I just want to show what monkeys these rumpers made of themselves. As for the "repeaters from New Hamburg," here are the facts: At or near 1 o'clock a meeting was called and a delegate was selected at New Hamburg. These people did not know whether they would be entitled to any recognition at all, since they polled less than 100 votes for Bryan in 1900.

New Hamburg is in the same township with Benton. At Benton the meeting was not called until 1:30, and by this time some of the voters who had taken part in the New Hamburg meeting arrived in Benton to see what was going on here. Among them were also some who were not present at the New Hamburg meeting. They asked me if their delegate would be recognized at the county convention. I admitted my inability to answer the question.

"Well, if the delegate we elected will not be recognized, then we want to vote here," they said. Mind you, the machine committee in its call denied representation to any precinct with less than 100 voters, except such representation as the convention saw fit to give.

Entering the courthouse, they took seats north of the aisle. When Marshall Arnold put in nomination for chairman J. K. P. Cheering, I advised that they who had taken part in the New Hamburg meeting step aside.

The candidate of the Farris forces for chairman was Jos. Utange, and when Mr. Kingsbury told those in favor of Mr. Utange to step to the south side of the room, I stepped to the south side.

The rush from one side to the other caused considerable confusion, and Father Moenig asked of the chairman: "We held a meeting at New Hamburg and elected a delegate, but do not know if we will be entitled to recognition. Can we vote here?"

Marshall Arnold was on his feet and took in the situation. He saw me on the south side. He saw the New Hamburg voters on the north side with Bill Heiserer in their midst. Assuming that Heiserer had them in tow, he also assumed the duties of the chairman and thundered out: "Why, of course you can vote." Then they walked over to the south side—and Marshall looked like a little boy who had let a bird go. Had they remained on the north side, they would not have been regarded as "repeaters."

However, to have eliminated the voters from New Hamburg would not have changed the result. We had 'em, anyway, by a safe margin.

Now, let us look at the "two delegates from Kelso." That township cast 146 votes and has three precincts. The township held three meetings and elected four delegates. It would not have mattered if they had elected fifty delegates—the township would have been entitled to but one vote. Not understanding the call—and nobody understood it—the voters of Kelso precinct elected two delegates, because they had cast more votes than Washburn and Graysboro combined. All the delegates were anti-Marshall, and made no effort to cast or be counted for more than one vote.

Then they undertook to find fault with Charley Hillmann's Democracy. Well, these Cleveland Democrats are queer ducks, anyway. They sometimes find fault with my Democracy. I don't know anything about it, but, when asked, Judge Albright said: "Charley Hillmann is as good a Democrat as I am"—and who will challenge the Democracy of Judge Albright?

Right here it may be well to ask Marshall Arnold to explain when J. K. P. Cheering, his man for chairman, got to be a Democrat? The very best that Mr. Cheering ever claimed to be was a free silver Republican—and I like his Republicanism quite as well as Senator Marshall or Marshall Arnold's Democracy.

So here you have the sum and substance of their grounds for a bolt. Strange that they didn't find fault with some delegate because he didn't have his hat on straight.

The objection to Charley Hillmann's Democracy was made by Billy Barnes, who is engaged in the newspaper business with Joe W. Moore. Moore is a very rank Republican, and takes pride in telling that he and Barnes never disagree in writing political editorials. In its last issue the Moore & Barnes organ finds a great deal of fault with the Kicker man and says "the political steal by Haffer's gang of 'honest farmers' was attempted at Benton on Thursday of this week makes Butler's Indians look like a dirty deuce in a new deck."

Now, I want to ask Senator Marshall's man Friday if it was not the chairman of the county committee who refused to play Jim Conran and override the will of the people? And I wish to further ask him if the chairman was not a Marshall supporter?

Against tremendous odds, the people won a great victory over a set of political pirates, and now they are trying to find some excuse for a contest. After exhausting every other contemptible method resorted to by machine politicians, they tried to trump up contests where no contests existed, and wanted the chairman of the county committee to ignore all precedent and rule in their favor. And, while the chairman was a Marshall supporter, yet he refused to be used.

There was no contest in the entire county—except from New Hamburg precinct—and it was entitled to no stated recognition. The call that ordered the meetings was the dirtiest piece of political trickery that was ever perpetrated on any people, and was purposely designed to confuse the voters and give grounds for contests. But fortunately the sentiment against Senator Marshall was so unanimous that no loophole was left, except at New Hamburg—and it cut no ice.

As for Benton precinct, the selection of the chairman decided the contest. The count was made by a Marshall man—Mr. Kingsbury. The repeaters complained of numbered ten or twelve. Our majority was twice that. I do not know whether Mr. Kingsbury counted them or not. They stated clearly and plainly that some of them had taken part in a meeting at New Hamburg and asked if their delegate would receive recognition, or if they could vote here.

To sum it all up, the Marshall forces had everything on their side except the people—and yet got ticked. And now they're so mad!

Of course the organs that accepted a bribe must offer some excuse for the defeat, else the price of slobber might take a drop. But to charge unfairness exceeds the ridiculous and becomes grotesque. Every effort was made to run it over the people. And I challenge any Marshall rooster to attempt a guess at what a precinct with less than 100 votes was entitled to. I tried my best to find out, and the chairman of the county committee admitted his ignorance and said "the convention would have to settle that." The convention did settle it—and now the men who were responsible for that dirty job whine about "repeaters" and "Indians."

The Kicker is the only paper in the county that attempted to analyze the meaning of the committee's call. The Kicker is the only paper in the county that attempted to tell the people to what representation they were entitled. And because the Kicker did this, the hirelings of the Marshalls try to make it appear as if their defeat was due to the cunning of Phil Haffer. But Phil Haffer did nothing more than his duty as a newspaper man, and gave the voters all the information obtainable—and the voters did the rest.

They talk of unfairness. Let us take a peep and see how their conduct compares with ours. When they discovered that a fight was on in the county every available rooster was pressed into service. It was a day and night campaign on their part, and money and booze flowed freely. I can best give an idea of what was going on over the county by describing what took place at Benton. On the day prior to the precinct meeting Ben Marshall of Blodgett and C. A. Leady of Madison county were here "singing things." The silent partner of the local booze joint became unusually active, as did also his Indians. Among other things, they tried to work on the prejudices of the people

by saying that "Farris is Phil Haffer's man," etc.

Next morning the Marshall roosters were on the streets early. Besides the local talent came J. K. P. Cheering from Blodgett and J. W. Baty from Cary to work on the Sandyswoods voters. Later in the day Edgar Chearning appeared and surprised his neighbors by being on the other side. As the Sandyswoods farmers arrived they were plucked off and "consulted" but they stood firm as the eternal hills, and the roosters soon became afflicted with that tired feeling.

To better illustrate the situation, I will take the case of the Denton family. They are poor people, hard-working, honest and intelligent. They number four votes. Upon their arrival in Benton, one of the horse roosters cornered the father, while others worked on the sons. But they could do nothing.

A little later it was rumored that they had the father in the saloon, and J. N. Anderson was sent to bring him out. When he emerged from the joint, Denton looked as if he had been doped.

After every thing else had failed them, a capitalist of the county took one of the sons aside and said: "Don't you know that I've got the strings on you?"

"What strings have you got on me?" asked the son.

"Why, haven't I got a mortgage on your mules?"

Young Denton looked at the rascal with contempt, as he replied: "Then two mules don't buy my vote."

All honor to the Dentons!

Tom Chearning is just old enough to vote. He took part in the precinct meeting at Benton. His father was the nominee for chairman of the Marshall forces, while Joe Utange was put up by the opposition. When a division of the house was called for Tom stepped to the south side.

"Come over here, Tom," pleaded a voice from the Marshall side, "you ain't going to vote against your father."

"I'm for Farris," replied Tom—and he stayed with the Farris crowd. He voted his sentiments, while his father voted to hold his job with the B. F. Marshall Mercantile Co.

John Howard worked at the stock farm of C. & A. J. Matthews near Oran. At the precinct meeting John stepped to the Farris side. The foreman of the farm took hold of John and tried to pull him to the other side, but John stood firm and replied, "Oh, no!"

It is reported here that a man was discharged by an Oran firm Thursday evening because he refused to vote for Marshall, but that public indignation became so fierce that the firm reemployed him in time to go to work next morning.

And so the stories of persuasion, bulldozing and intimidation come from every part of the county.

They who attended the precinct meeting at Benton saw something that impressed them. When the chairmanship was decided by a division of the house the Farris men took the south side while the Marshall adherents occupied the north side.

And here was a spectacle! On the Farris side were the men who raise corn and wheat and melons and hogs and sheep and other things that feed and clothe the world. On the Marshall side were the men who rule h—l. Here were the landlords, the lawyers, the politicians, the officeholders, the organ-grinders, the storekeepers, the gamblers, saloon keepers, the saloon bums, and a very few misguided citizens who earn bread in the sweat of their faces.

But the producers greatly outnumbered the non-producers—as they always do when they stand together.

It is a little strange that the ring organs should make so much noise about the "repeaters from New Hamburg" and the "two delegates from Kelso," and yet say nothing about Wm. Howell, an uneducated delegate from Sylvania township, taking the floor in open convention and announcing that he had been asked to name his price! Why didn't the organs tell the people about this? Why didn't they say anything about J. D. Bowman, another uneducated delegate from Sylvania, was offered money and a clerkship in the state senate at \$3.50 a day? Why were there nothing said about quite all of the uneducated delegates receiving "calls" during the night previous to the convention?

A Boodler's Paradise.

From the Central Baptist:

If any boodler had any fear of Missouri laws and Missouri courts, that fear is fast passing away. If our laws are so rotten as not to hold the guilty, it is time we had a few valid enactments. If the fault is in the courts, then we need a few judges who have nerve enough to do their sensible duty. There is not a boodler in the state today who would like to have any change in either the law or the courts. One is moved to inquire whether it would be possible for a boodler to break into the penitentiary. Recent decisions lead toward the conclusion that there is not a single clause under which it is possible to punish this prevailing crime. It is certain that those decisions make plain the methods by which, under present regulations, any man can do as much bribing as he likes and yet go free.

SOUTHEAST NOTES.

There is sure to be a big demand for canteloupes and melons at the World's Fair, and Southeast Missouri should supply most of them. But it seems that Scott county will devote some of the melon land to cotton this year.

The Fredericktown Tribune says Hon. B. B. Cahoon says he expects to violate the local option law. Run him for Governor again on the Republican ticket. He's better than Hawes—who expects to violate all laws.

The Southeast Missouri Press Association has revived itself for no good reason that we can think of. Wonder if thousand-dollar-bill Page of the Boone Terre Star is a member of the resurrected association?

John H. Ranney, ex-Congressman of Wayne county, recommends "Peruna," a patent medicine consisting chiefly of cheap whiskey and costing twice as much as that delectable drug.

On the 5th at Portageville Martin Durbin shot and killed Bob Disher while the latter was under arrest for striking Jim Durbin over the head with a whisky bottle. Durbin is in jail.

A dummy at the door of a clothing store at Cape Girardeau causes the candidates much annoyance. They all try to shake hands with him. He should be arrested.

At Idalia, Stoddard county, a little girl returning from school stepped on a log and set it rolling. The log overtook the child and crushed her to death.

The Farmington electric railroad again has an incorporated company behind it—capital stock \$300,000. It may be built and operated after all.

Madison county went dry by five votes at the local option election on the 8th. A contest may be the result of this narrow majority.

The Fredericktown Tribune is up against a county court which gives county printing to the highest bidder. The Kicker sympathizes.

Ashley Toney, a 9-year-old boy of Piedmont, was killed by the cars on the 5th while jumping on a moving train around the depot.

Drink again! S. J. Ward, a timber cutter, got drunk at Meola on the 7th, got in the way of a Frisco train and was cut to pieces.

Frank Mitchell has left Missouri and is publishing the El Paso, Texas, Evening News. El Paso has our sympathy.

The steamer Sunshine was burned at Riley's landing on the 10th and two lives are supposed to have been lost.

A Cape county ewe gave birth to five lambs at a time, and four of 'em are alive and hearty.

The Frisco road between St. Louis and Cape Girardeau is almost ready to operate.

The Reynolds county convention stood five to one for Folk. Good for Reynolds!

Ben Adams says he is a grand-dad eight times "and still in the ring." Bollinger county votes on local option on the 19th inst.

FOR SALE—The Kelso Hotel. Twelve rooms, plenty of water and all modern improvements. Apply to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schwenker.

Joe Folk Coming!
Court House, 1:30, P. M.,
Friday, March 18.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

The following grand jury has been drawn for the April term of circuit court: O. F. Goodin, Theo. Russell, Louis Pfefferkorn, Jno. J. Hunter, Will Clayton, Handy Smith, Chas. Hutchison, Chas. Hecchan, Albert Burdunant, Bob McCormick, E. L. Brown, A. H. Schuetz.

The coroner's jury in the Harry Miller case held Dr. Smith for murder in the first degree. His preliminary examination is in progress today (Thursday). Marshall Arnold and H. O. Bryan will help prosecute; W. H. Miller and Joe W. Moore will defend Smith.

The chances are that Harry Hawes will be withdrawn from the race in Scott county and Jim Reed substituted, our people being known to be overwhelmingly opposed to Hawes.

Licensed to wed: Geo. Lyon and Lucy Griffin; Jesse E. Boyett and Flora M. Palmer; Will Mason and Eunice Joyce; Artie C. Wells and Beulah May Jordan.

The drill was gotten out of the well last Saturday, and when they got out all the chunks of rope, drilling will be resumed.

Dr. Bagwell of Diehlstadt visited Dr. Freeling Monday.

Judge Bugh had business in Benton Wednesday.

FROM ORAN.

Mr. Geo. Hofer died Saturday and was buried at the Catholic cemetery Monday. She was 22 years old, and leaves a husband and two children.

Miss Ruth Mitchell was called to Kentucky to the bedside of her cousin—one of which died and another is dangerously ill.

We have enough surplus water to supply the artesian well for years. Better bring it over and get it filled for summer use.

Rev. England is in St. Louis attending the dedication of the Coronado M. E. Church south.

Misses Deloma Schobe and Fay Parish, of Morley, spent Sunday with Miss Jennie Clemon.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brooker died and was buried at the Catholic cemetery.

Mrs. John Friend entertained the Aid Society Friday and proved to be a genial hostess.

After spending the winter in Charleston Mrs. Lizzie Massey has returned to Oran.

Mrs. Ann Stiff, who has been visiting in Scott county, has left for Seattle, Wash.

The millinery opening of Hinkle & Chitty was well attended Saturday.

Robt. Macke and Robt. Moore, of Jackson, are here for the season.

Wm. McLean will leave for South-west Texas in search of health.

W. H. Patten purchased a lot from Frank McGraw this week.

Rev. Joe Russell preached at the Methodist church Sunday.

Mrs. Wm. Rash has returned from her visit to Columbus, Ky.

Mrs. R. B. Lyons is convalescent after a lingering illness.

George Lyons and Miss Ruth Griffin were married Sunday.

J. C. Heifner has received new fixtures for his barbershop.

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. McFadden on the 9th.

W. A. Engle, of Glenn Allen, was a visitor here last week.

Little Ruth Ora Alley is much improved in health.

We are promised a good ball team this season.

Mrs. W. Z. Maxwell is quite sick. Six new dwellings are in progress.

FROM BLEDA.

George Oster was over at Edna recently and says Henry Schuetz expects to have street cars running to the river soon after he gets his brickyard in operation.

Press Emerson's school was out on Friday and he had twenty visitors with their dinners spread out on the ground. Emerson makes a good teacher.

Here's a story for your whiskers: Lawrence Page killed 118 coons, 18 turkeys and 40 ducks.

Ernest Prindle has brought his brother and sister-in-law back from Texas with him.

John Halter is moving from the Wm. Byrnes place to his brother's train in Oran.

Several joined the Literary Society Thursday night and we want more. Loy Blocker and wife have returned from a visit to relatives at Hayti.

Frank Armbrin and Frank Grogan were at Benton Saturday.

Mrs. Jane Wylie has 200 bales of first-class timothy hay to sell.

One of Wm. Howell's twin boys has been sick the past week.

Arthur Wylie made a business trip to New Hamburg Monday.

About 200 acres have been put in clover in the last week.

Henry Abbot now occupies the new house on his farm.

Miss Loretta Wylie is visiting in Stoddard county.

Otto Heeb is arranging to build a new house.

These cool rains are hard on oats.

FROM MORLEY.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jenter have left us to make their home in Arkansas, and we very much regret to lose such good citizens.

Miss May Bryans and two girl friends visited here Saturday and Sunday.

The stove factory's furnace fell in last week and delayed work for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Dotson visited home folks Monday.

Miss Lilly Mills has been sick, but is improving.

Candidates were numerous Friday and Saturday.

Geo. Worley is carpentering at Allenville.

Miss Agnes Offutt is here for a few days' visit.

B. F. Earles bought goods at Cairo last week.

FROM CARY.

The boys have a long-winded story about an alleged panther, but as a dash of rain drove them to cover, we are skeptical.

Will Thomas went to Graysboro Saturday to see Ed Chearning's mother, who had fallen from a porch.

Walter Goddard and wife attended his mother's funeral at Macedonia on Friday.

Mr. Sherer of Blodgett is in the store here in Mr. Baty's absence.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Calbert on the 12th, a boy and girl.

The big mill had an accident to its machinery, but is running again.

J. W. Baty is at the bedside of his sick mother in Kentucky.

Mrs. Della Holloway visited her mother Sunday.

Will Wilson and wife have gone to housekeeping.

FROM KELSO.

FOR SALE—My farm containing 18 acres—140 acres in cultivation, 20 acres in timber. Situated two miles south of Kelso. Good 7-room dwelling, barns, stables, plenty of water and all modern improvements. For particulars apply or write to Florian Russell, Kelso, Mo., or this office.

Mrs. Joe Dumey died at her home here last Saturday and was buried at the Catholic cemetery.

Miss Pauline Dumey came from St. Louis Sunday to attend Mrs. Joe Dumey's funeral.

John Arch was taken to the Cape hospital Tuesday to undergo an operation.

Arthur Chrismon and Joe Pobst spent last Thursday night in Kelso.

Dora Thomas returned to Graysboro Monday after a visit to her folks.

John I. Diebold is putting down granitoid in front of the bank.

Leo Diebold is grading the road in front of his new shop.

Mrs. Katie Dumey is recovering from a severe sickness.

Geo. Whaling is master mechanic for Mants & Sailer.

Mrs. Louis Hoeller is reported very ill of pneumonia.

A child was born to Joe Bles last Friday.

A baby of Chas. Messmer's is sick.

FROM NEW HAMBURG.

Frank Messmer, of Kelso, was with us Monday, and Father Heimbacher, of Oran, was here Tuesday.

Geo. Henning, Chas. Diebold and Andy Klaus have children with pneumonia.

After a prolonged illness Mrs. Lorenz Bucher was again on our streets.

Andy Bles had a finger severely cut at the saw mill.

John W. Cruse returned from the south Saturday.

Peter Schoen is in St. Louis buying spring goods.

Louis Legend's boy, Joe, is sick.

FROM ROCKVIEW.

Arthur McFerron of Advance had business here a few days this week.

The dance at Henry Thompson's Saturday night was well attended.

Mrs. Daymon, Pearl Jones and Ida Balch went to the Cape Friday.

Mrs. J. P. Holmes is visiting Mrs. F. J. Amrhein at Bleda.

Mrs. Smith, Vode Green and Alex. Kinder are on the sick list.

The ball game here Sunday was washed out by rain.

Nick Menz has been in St. Louis for the past week.

W. D. Jones and wife were at the Cape Saturday.

Frank Felden made a business trip to Oran Friday.

Cooper Spradlin has a severe case of sore eyes.

Fred and Claude Hanes are on the sick list.

Cassie Hunt was here Saturday.

FROM GRAYSBORO.

There is some talk of trying to elect a constable next fall. We need peace officers here more than elsewhere in the county, because of the comers and goers.

James Upshaw went to the Cape Saturday. He is 67 years old, and sometimes makes the trip a-foot.

A child of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Carpenter died Saturday.

Rev. Mitchell of Fredericktown will preach here Sunday.

Mr. Boyer is building a barbershop on Front street.

Mayor Hester is able to be up and about again.

FROM MACEDONIA.

Mrs. Eliza Goddard died at A. C. Ansell's on the 11th at the age of 82. She was a faithful member of the M. E. church for several years. We extend sympathy to the bereaved.

Candidates, take warning. One of you prowling in our hills was run off by a lady with a shotgun.

J. M. S. went duck hunting the other day and got ten ducks—and the mumps.